

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
OCALA DIVISION**

**AMY LEE BARRETT,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**Case No: 5:20-cv-535-GKS-PRL**

**COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL  
SECURITY,**

**Defendant.**

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**ORDER**

This case is before the Court on the Commissioner's motion to stay the case for ninety days, or until the Social Security Agency ("SSA") regains the capacity to produce the certified transcript of the record necessary for this case. (Doc. 13).


Due to public health concerns, the SSA has transitioned to a maximum telework environment which prevented it from adhering to its business process for preparing the transcript of the record in many cases. Additionally, the complaints filed in SSA cases have increased, which has resulted in a backlog of work, making it difficult for the agency to process the transcripts in a timely manner.

Plaintiff has filed a response to the motion setting forth objections including that Commissioner has failed to provide the specific status of preparing Plaintiff's transcript and while the quarantine measures have disrupted work activity, it is unacceptable to put Plaintiff's case on indefinite hold. (Doc. 14). Plaintiff's point is well taken. Given the unique challenges caused by the pandemic, the Court is inclined to afford additional time to the

Commissioner to obtain the transcript of the record in this case. However, the need for an extension must be balanced with Plaintiff's right to have his case decided.

Accordingly, the Commissioner's opposed motion to stay (Doc. 13) is **GRANTED** in part. The Commissioner shall file an answer and the transcript of the record for this case within 60 days. If additional time is needed, the Commissioner should file a declaration specific to this case and explain why the transcript of the record has not yet been prepared.

**DONE** and **ORDERED** in Ocala, Florida on February 26, 2021.



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PHILIP R. LAMMENS  
United States Magistrate Judge

Copies furnished to:

Counsel of Record  
Unrepresented Parties